



Environment Governance Institute (EGI) Uganda



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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# TABLE OF **ACRONYMS**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>CBM</b>	Community Based Monitors
<b>COP30</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties
<b>CPF</b>	Central Processing Facility
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EACOP</b>	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
<b>EACOPHC</b>	EACOP Host Community
<b>ECA</b>	Export Credit Agencies
<b>ECT</b>	Energy Charter Treaty
<b>EGI</b>	Environment Governance Institute
<b>EHRDs</b>	Environmental and Human Rights Defenders
<b>FPIC</b>	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>JET</b>	Just energy Transition
<b>KA</b>	Key Achievements
<b>KCB11</b>	11 activists who were arrested while presenting petition to KCB
<b>KUEMA</b>	Kyambogo University Environment Management Association
<b>MEAL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
<b>MEMD</b>	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
<b>MWE</b>	Ministry of Water and Environment
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Government Organizations
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>UWA</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority

# 1.0 ABOUT US

Environment Governance Institute (EGI's) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promote the sustainable management of environment and natural resources in Uganda and the Great Lakes Region. The organization operates largely in three program areas; namely, Human Rights and Environment, Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration, Climate

Change adaptation and resilience. EGI implements interventions that promote equity and social justice in the management of nature resources in Uganda and Great Lakes Region.

Through our work, EGI builds capacity within communities and CSOs to influence decisions that affect their lives and inform actions that mitigate

conflicts and human rights violations associated with the exploitation of natural resources. Through different platforms, EGI bridges the gap between local communities, CSOs, leaders, and the private sector active in the natural resources sector and advocates for a just and equitable energy transition.



## Our Vision

A society that equitably utilizes natural resources for socio-economic development.



## Our Mission

To promote the sustainable management of environment and natural resources in Uganda and the Great Lakes Region.

# 2.0 **OUR PROGRAMS**

## **2.1: CLIMATE CHANGE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION**

The Climate Change and Just Energy Transition Program advances EGI's work to align energy and development pathways in Uganda and across Africa with climate goals, social justice, and long-term economic resilience. The program responds to the continued reliance on fossil fuel expansion and carbon-intensive infrastructure, which risks locking countries into stranded assets, fiscal vulnerabilities, and escalating environmental and social costs.

Recognizing that public finance plays a decisive role in shaping energy systems, the program focuses on influencing the policies, investment decisions, and accountability frameworks of Public Finance Institutions (PFIs) including Export Credit Agencies (ECAs), Multilateral and National Development Banks, sovereign funds, and institutional investors such as pension funds. These institutions continue to play a critical

role in determining whether Africa's energy future supports a low-carbon transition or reinforces fossil fuel dependency.

The program seeks to ensure that Africa's energy transition is not only low-carbon, but also equitable, development-oriented, and driven by public finance that supports resilience, access, and long-term sustainability.

## **2.2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

The Human Rights and Environment Program advances EGI's mission to promote accountable, rights-based, and environmentally responsible development in Uganda and the African Great Lakes Region. The program responds to the growing environmental degradation, social conflict, and human rights risks associated with large-scale extractive, energy, and infrastructure investments particularly in the oil, gas, and emerging critical minerals sectors that are reshaping the region's

development pathway.

The rapid expansion of fossil fuel projects and resource extraction has intensified pressures on land, water, and ecosystems, while exposing affected communities to displacement, loss of livelihoods, pollution, and limited access to information and decision-making processes. At the same time, Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs), community leaders, journalists, and civil society actors are increasingly

facing intimidation, harassment, and restrictions for speaking out on environmental and governance concerns.

Through research, policy advocacy, coalition building, and strategic engagement with state and financial actors, the program seeks to ensure that Uganda's and Africa's development pathways do not reproduce extractive injustices, but instead support a just, inclusive, and sustainable energy and resource future.

## **2.3 ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM**

The Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration Program advances EGI's commitment to safeguarding natural ecosystems as the foundation for climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable livelihoods. The program responds to increasing ecosystem degradation in Uganda and the African Great

Lakes Region driven by deforestation, wetland encroachment, unsustainable land use, extractive activities, and climate change trends that are undermining community well-being and long-term environmental stability.

Recognizing that healthy ecosystems are critical for water security, food

systems, disaster risk reduction, and carbon sequestration, the program focuses on protecting ecologically sensitive areas while restoring degraded landscapes to support both biodiversity and local livelihoods.

## 3.0 **Maps and areas** of operations

### 3.1 Map of Africa showing countries of operations





## 4.0 Statistical Summary of key milestones

<b>5,300</b>	People directly reached with information on human and Environments rights.
<b>46</b>	Number of field community observers trained and reporting on investigative oil mechanisms
<b>960</b>	Number of communities reached during the promoting of ecosystem conservation
<b>480</b>	Cases reported by community-based monitors in the oil impacted districts
<b>6</b>	Research publications
<b>48</b>	CSOs network working to decarbonize ECAs
<b>6</b>	International engagements and joint forums participated on climate change in year 2025
<b>5</b>	Continued withdrawal of ECAs and reinsurers from supporting oil activities in Uganda
<b>39</b>	Newspaper articles and media led stories
<b>1,120,000</b>	Social media reach
<b>73,234</b>	Social media engagements
<b>391</b>	New followers on social media
<b>4</b>	Advocacy Videos documentary published
<b>10</b>	Secured media interviews
<b>12</b>	Public Finance Institutions engaged through policy submissions, meetings, and advocacy communications.
<b>12</b>	Policy submissions / position papers submitted
<b>8</b>	policy submissions made to ECAs, development banks, and international climate finance processes.
<b>32</b>	Environmental Human Rights Defenders supported through training, legal referrals, or protection mechanisms.

# SECTION

# 1



# 5.0 KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

## 5.1 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Dear reader, welcome to EGI's 2025 Annual Report.

It is with great pleasure that I share this message reflecting the significant strides made by the Environment Governance Institute Uganda (EGI) in 2025. As Chairperson of the Board, I am proud of the progress achieved across our programmes as we continue to advance accountable governance, environmental justice, and a just and inclusive transition toward a climate-safe future.

During the year, EGI strengthened its voice in national, regional, and global climate policy spaces. At the Africa Climate Summit, our message was clear: while Africa is rightly positioned as a source of climate solutions, energy and development decisions must be grounded in the lived realities of communities affected by oil, gas, and large-scale extractive projects. Sustainable development cannot be achieved where communities are excluded, livelihoods are undermined, and ecosystems are degraded.

Elevating community voices remained one of EGI's core strengths in 2025. The Board commends the Secretariat for its evidence-based investigative work that brought national attention to human rights and livelihood challenges faced by fishing communities affected by the Kingfisher oil project in Buhuuka Village, Kikuube District. This advocacy contributed to high-level government action, including a presidential directive to dissolve and reform the Marine Fisheries Unit into a more inclusive and responsive structure that recognizes the rights and sustainability needs of indigenous fishing communities.

The Board also recognizes the resilience of the organization in a difficult operating environment. Despite a constrained and uncertain funding landscape and shifting political dynamics, EGI remained focused on advancing its mission to promote climate-safe development, responsible public finance, and sustainable natural resource governance.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat continued to play a critical role in influencing policy, strengthening public finance accountability, and advancing rights-based environmental governance across multiple sectors. With the support of our partners, dedicated staff, and a growing network of collaborators, EGI expanded its work in climate governance, just energy transition, ecosystem protection, critical mineral oversight, and community-led environmental monitoring.

The organization generated evidence through research and community-based reporting, elevated frontline community voices into national and global policy spaces, and engaged government institutions, financial actors, and development partners to promote transparency, responsible investment, and stronger environmental and social safeguards. EGI also strengthened strategic communications and media engagement, coordinated civil society action to influence export credit agencies and development finance institutions, and supported communities in oil-affected areas to monitor risks, defend their rights, and participate meaningfully in decisions shaping their livelihoods and

environment. These efforts collectively contributed to greater public awareness, improved accountability, and growing momentum toward a just, inclusive, and climate-aligned development pathway for Uganda and the region.

The Board is confident that the gains made in 2025 provide a strong foundation for the years ahead. As the global energy transition accelerates and pressures for new extractive investments grow, EGI's role in promoting accountability, environmental justice, and equitable development will be more important than ever. We remain committed to providing strategic guidance and oversight to ensure effective delivery of the organization's mandate.

We look forward to building on this progress in 2026 as we continue working toward a just, inclusive, and sustainable future for Uganda and the region.

The Board expresses its deep gratitude to our donors and partners for their continued financial, technical, and strategic support. Your contribution in EGI's work has enabled us to strengthen community voices, advance policy reform, promote accountable public finance, and defend environmental and human rights in an increasingly challenging operating environment. We value this partnership and look forward to deepening our collaboration in the years ahead.

Thank You.

  
**Asadhu Ssebyoto**  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

## 5.2 MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



On behalf of the Secretariat, I am pleased to present the Environment Governance Institute's 2025 Annual Report, which highlights the progress made and the growing impact of our work in advancing a just energy transition, strengthening community livelihoods, protecting ecosystems, promoting environmental human rights, and influencing climate-responsive policies at national, regional, and global levels.

Throughout the year, EGI worked closely with communities in oil-affected districts including Hoima, Kikuube, Buliisa, Kyotera, Rakai, Lwengo, and beyond to strengthen local resilience and support community-led livelihood and conservation initiatives. Our community accountability model anchored in training local champions and community observers in the Albertine Graben—continued to provide a strong platform for grassroots monitoring, early warning, and evidence-based advocacy for a just and fossil-free future. Through sustained engagement, capacity building, and grassroots organizing, we supported communities to assert their rights, adapt their livelihoods amidst expanding oil operations, and participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their land, water, and environment.

The operating environment in 2025 remained challenging. Shrinking

civic space, increasing surveillance and intimidation of environmental defenders, climate variability affecting community resilience, and continued financial backing for large-scale fossil fuel infrastructure including external support to the EACOP project created significant operational risks. Despite these pressures, EGI remained resilient and focused on advancing inclusive natural resource governance, responding to emerging human rights concerns in oil-hosting areas, promoting ecosystem conservation, and driving evidence-based advocacy for green and climate-aligned public finance.

At the global level, 2025 was marked by critical climate policy developments, including the lead-up to COP30 in Belém. Key international discussions reinforced the urgency of scaling up adaptation finance and advancing operational frameworks for just transition, including enhanced international cooperation, technical support, and capacity building for developing countries. These developments align closely with EGI's advocacy priorities to ensure that global climate commitments translate into accessible, equitable, and accountable finance for African countries and frontline communities.

However, global climate governance continues to face uncertainties. Persistent high emissions from major economies and shifting geopolitical dynamics including policy reversals and weakened climate commitments by some major emitters pose risks to collective progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement. These trends underscore the importance of strong civil society engagement to hold governments and financial institutions accountable.

In this context, EGI strengthened its focus on public finance accountability. Our work targeted export credit agencies, insurers, and development finance institutions that continue to support fossil fuel expansion in Uganda

and across Africa. The publication of a flagship research report exposed the environmental, social, and financial risks associated with ECA-backed fossil fuel projects, contributing to regional evidence-based campaigns and expanding policy space for investment in clean, decentralized, and community-centered energy solutions. This work also supports broader continental conversations on aligning Africa's development pathway with both renewable energy opportunities and responsible governance of critical minerals.

EGI's impact in 2025 was further amplified through strategic communications, media engagement, coalition building, and participation in regional and global advocacy platforms. Through these efforts, local community experiences were elevated into national policy debates and international discussions on energy transition, climate finance, and development justice.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and the donor community for their continued financial, technical, and strategic support. Your partnership has enabled EGI to expand its reach, deepen its impact, and sustain its work in an increasingly complex operating environment.

As we look ahead, EGI remains committed to strengthening community voice, advancing accountable public finance, protecting civic space, and ensuring that Uganda's and Africa's energy transition is equitable, inclusive, and aligned with long-term environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

Thank you.

**Samuel Okulony**

**Chief Executive Officer, EGI**

## 5.3 DEPARTMENTAL MESSAGES

### 5.3.1 Finance & Administration Department



The year 2025 marked a period of growth and strengthened operational capacity for the Finance and Administration Department. As we close the financial year, I extend my sincere appreciation to all staff, partners, and stakeholders whose collective efforts enabled the organization to operate effectively and deliver on its mandate.

On behalf of EGI, I would like to express our gratitude to our partners, funders and supporters for their continued financial and strategic support toward advancing just energy transition advocacy and strengthening community resilience. Their partnership has enabled the organization to expand its programs while improving operational efficiency and institutional stability.

With the growth of the team and program portfolio, the department prioritized strengthening internal systems to enhance efficiency, financial accountability, and compliance with EGI policies and procedures. The department worked closely with program teams to ensure adherence to statutory requirements, donor regulations, and organizational financial management standards.

As we move into 2026, the department remains focused on strengthening financial sustainability, supporting resource mobilization efforts, and ensuring prudent financial management. Compliance, transparency, and value for money will remain central to our operations as we continue to support the organization's expanding programmatic work.

**Patience Atukunda**

*Head of Finance & Administration, EGI*

### 5.3.2 Programs Department



The year 2025 was both dynamic and impactful for the Programs Department. During the year, the department strengthened and refined EGI's community-based monitoring model, expanding a network of trained community observers and improving the tracking and documentation of environmental and human rights issues associated with oil, gas, and other extractive activities.

In addition, increased monitoring of fossil fuel projects supported by Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) contributed to the formation and strengthening of a regional civil society platform focused on tracking public finance and its impacts across Africa. This initiative has enhanced collective advocacy for accountable and climate-aligned public finance.

Throughout the year, the department also deepened partnerships with national and grassroots networks, including the EACOP Host Communities Network, Oil Refinery Residents Association, Stop EACOP Coalition, Don't Gas Africa, and other civil society alliances. These collaborations strengthened coordinated advocacy and amplified community voices at national and regional levels.

As the unit responsible for direct implementation, the department observed increased community engagement and organization, particularly among women and youth, who are increasingly using existing platforms to defend their environmental and resource rights. However, the operating environment remained challenging due to shrinking civic space and limited transparency within the extractives sector.

In 2026, the department will intensify its focus on Climate Change and Just Energy Transition, as well as Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration, with the goal of strengthening community resilience, protecting livelihoods, and promoting sustainable environmental management.

**Joy Nabulo**

*Head of Programs and Research Coordinator*

### 5.3.3 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) Department



At the core of EGI's values is a commitment to learning, accountability, and results. In 2025, the organization strengthened this commitment through the establishment of a dedicated Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Department.

The department's mandate is to track progress toward organizational results, generate evidence to inform program improvement, and strengthen EGI's effectiveness in addressing environmental governance and human rights challenges within Uganda's extractives sector.

The MEAL function also plays a critical role in strengthening accountability to communities, donors, and other stakeholders by ensuring that program performance is systematically monitored and that feedback mechanisms are integrated into implementation. Regular engagements with beneficiaries have enabled the organization to reflect on lessons learned and adapt its approaches to better respond to community needs.

In addition, the department continues to support the documentation and dissemination of evidence on emerging trends and impacts within Uganda's energy and extractives sector. This information not only informs EGI's strategic decision-making but also supports partners and stakeholders working to improve governance, transparency, and accountability in the sector.

As we move forward, the MEAL Department remains committed to strengthening a culture of learning, evidence-based programming, and results-driven accountability to ensure that EGI's work delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

***John Peter Okwi***

***Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning, EGI***





# SECTION

# 2

# 6.0 EGI key achievements and community advocacy work done per program area

## 6.1 Advocacy work under Climate Change and JET program

### KA1 Strengthened over 70 oil affected communities in Kyotera on FPIC and rights defense

In January 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) conducted a community engagement in Kakuuto Sub-county, Kyotera District, aimed at strengthening community awareness of their rights and building their capacity to demand Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from oil project developers operating in their area. The meeting brought together over 70 participants from oil-affected villages of Nabigasa, Bigada, and Kayachwere.

The engagement created a safe platform for community members to share their experiences, concerns, and grievances related to ongoing oil and pipeline developments. Key issues raised included inadequate and

delayed compensation, loss of land and livelihoods, intimidation, unresolved legal disputes, and concerns over environmental degradation and climate-related impacts associated with the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

These community dialogues were conducted in the context of intensified project activities in the area. In September 2024, the Government announced the delivery of the first batch of coated pipeline materials at Main Camp and Pipe Yard (MCPY 4) in Kyotera District, even as affected households continued to raise concerns about the social and environmental implications of the project.

Kakuuto Sub-county is among the most affected areas in the Greater Masaka region, where approximately 232 acres of land have been acquired

for the project, resulting in the displacement of over 524 Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from their ancestral land. Through the training, EGI equipped community members with knowledge on their land rights, grievance mechanisms, and strategies for collective advocacy and engagement with duty bearers.

The community engagement was preceded by field visits conducted by EGI to selected affected households. These visits enabled the documentation of on-site evidence, verification of reported impacts, and production of short video testimonies capturing community experiences.

The evidence generated was used to inform EGI's advocacy, media engagement, and policy calls for improved accountability and protection of community rights.



Ultimately EGI elevated voices of oil impacted communities, documented stories and voices of emerging impacts of oil and gas among women, Youth and elderly communities in the Rakai district, in the greater Masaka region of Uganda. These stories were later integrated in EGI quarterly newsletter, consequently advancing evidenced based campaigns and pressure to address community issues stemming from oil developments.

### **KA2 Amplified voices of Kijumba and Katooke oil affected communities on emerging oil impacts**

As part of its local-to-global advocacy on the environmental and human rights risks associated with fossil fuel expansion and Export Credit Agency (ECA)-backed projects, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) conducted community engagements in June 2025 with oil-affected residents of Kijumba and Katooke villages in Kabaale Sub-county, Hoima District.

The consultations provided a platform for communities to document and

raise concerns about emerging social, economic, and environmental impacts linked to ongoing oil and pipeline operations. A major issue reported was their imposition of movement restrictions and informal curfews by project security personnel, with residents in some areas required to limit movement after 6:00 p.m. These restrictions have had significant implications for livelihoods, preventing people from accessing workplaces, markets, and customers, thereby reducing incomes and increasing economic vulnerability.

Community members also highlighted the broader social consequences of restricted mobility, including reduced access to health services, education, and social support networks, contributing to social isolation and heightened stress among affected households. Livestock keepers further reported limited access to grazing areas, leading to reduced productivity and increased risks of livestock loss. These conditions raised serious human rights concerns, particularly regarding the right to freedom of movement as recognized under international human rights standards.

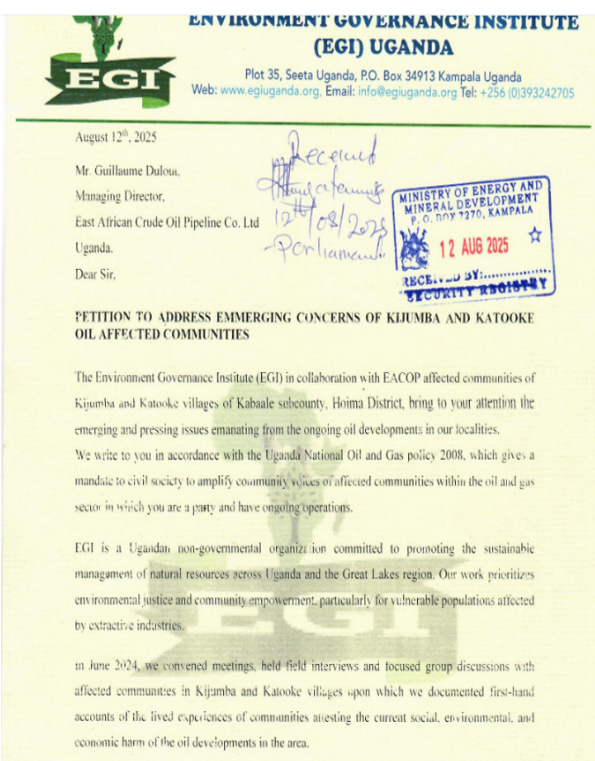
Additional concerns documented included unresolved orphaned land cases, poor disposal of construction and operational waste, limited transparency regarding livelihood restoration beneficiaries, and increased noise pollution affecting community well-being.

In response to these issues, EGI supported affected communities to consolidate their concerns and, in August 2025, formally petitioned the EACOP project developers to seek redress and corrective action. The evidence generated through the engagements was also used to inform advocacy and policy dialogue, including engagement with the Parliament of Uganda, to ensure that emerging community concerns are recognized and addressed within national oversight processes.

Through this work, EGI strengthened community voice, elevated local experiences into national accountability spaces, and reinforced its broader advocacy efforts to ensure that oil and infrastructure development respects human rights, environmental standards, and community livelihoods.



**A pap in Kijumba village expressing her concerns on lived impacts from Oil operations in Hoima**



### **KA3 Empowered 30 community observers to monitor and report oil impacts in the Albertine region**

On June 10, 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) conducted a capacity-building training to strengthen the skills of community-based observers across the Albertine Region, with the aim of improving local monitoring and reporting of environmental and social impacts associated with oil and gas developments.

The training brought together 30 community observers drawn from oil-affected areas along the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) corridor and upstream project sites.

Participants included observers from Kyakaboga Resettlement Camp in Buseruka Sub-county, Kijumba and

Katooke villages in Kabaale Sub-county (Hoima District), as well as community representatives from the Kingfisher project area in Buhuka, Kyangwali Sub-county (Kikuube District).

The session also included participation from local civil society partners, notably the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAVODA) and the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO). Their involvement strengthened collaboration, peer learning, and coordination among organizations supporting community accountability in the region.

EGI facilitators delivered practical and interactive sessions focused on strengthening incident documentation and evidence generation. Participants were organized by location to analyze real cases and apply the 5W and H framework (What, Where, When, Who, Why, and How) to structure incident

reports. The training also covered methods for assessing both immediate and long-term impacts, collecting credible photo and testimonial evidence, and applying safety and ethical protocols to protect observers and sensitive information.

As a result, community observers enhanced their capacity to identify, verify, and document oil-related incidents, improving the quality and reliability of community-generated data shared with EGI, relevant authorities, and advocacy networks. The training also surfaced key emerging issues across the observatory areas and informed priority follow-up actions.

Importantly, the engagement reinforced partnerships between community observers and civil society actors, strengthening a coordinated, community-led early warning and feedback system.



*A photo showing children navigating through a section of land restricted by pipeline construction as they make their way to fetch water.*

#### KA4: 60 community champions equipped with skills in evidence gathering, documentation, and advocacy to support community monitoring and influence decision-making

As part of its community accountability model in the Albertine Region, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) continued to strengthen the capacity of field-based community champions to monitor and respond to emerging impacts of oil development. In May 2025, EGI conducted a quarterly online training for community monitors focused on oil incident investigation and reporting mechanisms, aligned

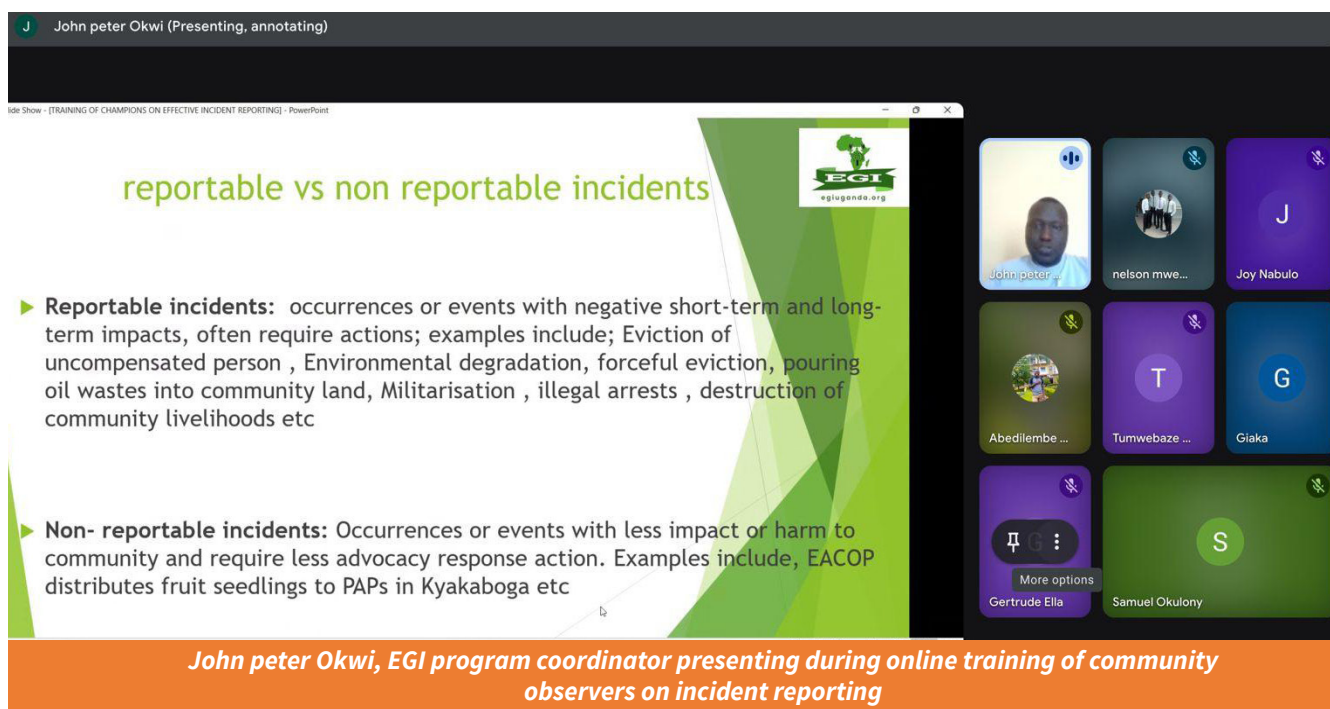
with the broader Stop-EACOP advocacy efforts.

The engagement brought together community champions from oil-affected areas and provided practical guidance on identifying, documenting, and reporting environmental and human rights concerns linked to EACOP activities. The sessions also created a structured platform for champions to share real-time community issues, enabling EGI to track emerging risks and inform timely advocacy and policy engagement.

Through these quarterly engagements, community champions strengthened their role as frontline accountability actors, supporting the development

of sustainable, community-led monitoring and response systems. Champions were further supported to use local communication channels and social media platforms to raise awareness, document incidents, submit petitions, tag relevant duty bearers, and speak out against human rights violations and the negative social and environmental impacts of oil development.

This approach has enhanced early warning, improved the flow of community-generated evidence, and strengthened grassroots mobilization, enabling affected communities to more effectively influence decision-making and demand accountability from project developers and government authorities.



#### KA5: Influenced national dialogue and policy processes to promote responsible, transparent, and community-centered governance of critical minerals in Uganda

During 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) advanced its policy advocacy to strengthen

governance of Uganda’s emerging critical minerals sector, ensuring that mineral development supports a just energy transition while safeguarding community rights and environmental sustainability.

Through engagements with communities in critical mineral-hosting areas, EGI documented emerging concerns related to land access, environmental risks, transparency, and

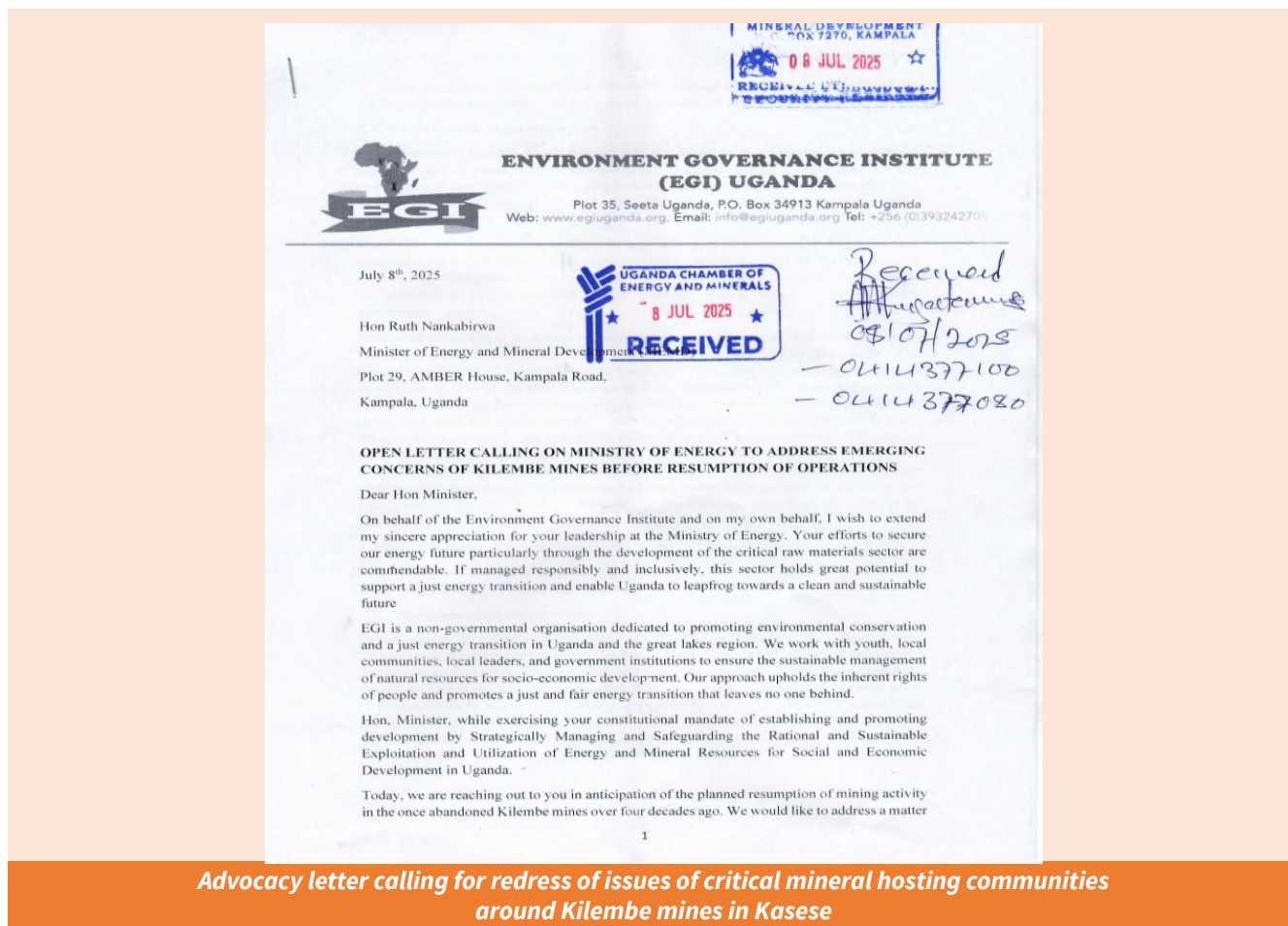
benefit sharing. These consultations revealed significant policy gaps and underscored the need for a dedicated national framework to guide the responsible development of critical mineral resources.

In response, EGI prepared and submitted a formal open letter to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development calling for the development of an independent

and comprehensive Critical Minerals Policy. The submission emphasized the importance of integrating strong environmental and social safeguards, community participation, transparency in licensing and investment, and alignment with global responsible supply chain standards.

This advocacy has contributed to growing policy attention within government and helped stimulate initial consultations around the need for a structured policy framework. Importantly, EGI's engagement ensured that community perspectives and local priorities are reflected in emerging policy discussions.

The proposed policy is expected to align with the objectives of Uganda's National Development Plan IV (2025–2030), which recognizes critical minerals as strategic resources for industrialization, renewable energy development, and participation in global energy transition value chains.



**Advocacy letter calling for redress of issues of critical mineral hosting communities around Kilembe mines in Kasese**

Further still EGI influenced parliamentary discussions about the rights of critical mineral hosting communities in the face of a revamped Kilembe copper and cobalt mines Kasese district. On 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2025, EGI presented an open letter to the Ministry of energy and mineral development and parliament calling for urgent redress of community concerns ahead of resumption of the Kilembe mines that had collapsed nearly four decades back. Kilembe mines are endorsed with Transition critical mineral resources comprising 4000000 tons

of copper and undetermined cobalt deposits. Copper and cobalt are key critical minerals essential for making clean energy technologies essential for the current global energy transition.

EGI further through engagement with different critical mineral hosting communities in Uganda, identified the need for Uganda to have an independent critical mineral policy. Consequently, EGI wrote and submitted an open letter to the ministry of energy and mineral resources calling for an independent and dedicated

critical mineral policy. This has gradually opened consultations within government and captured community perspectives and ensured their needs inclusion in the critical mineral policy are prioritized.

It's anticipated that the critical mineral policy will align with the needs of the Uganda National Development Plan 4 (2025 to 2030), which prioritizes critical mineral resources as key ingredients for Just energy transition and renewable energy development in Uganda.

## **KA6: Built youth awareness and engagement on the risks of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) in Uganda**

In March 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI), in partnership with Youth for Green Communities, organized a public lecture at Kyambogo University to raise awareness about the implications of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) for climate action and Uganda's just energy transition.

The engagement aimed to deepen understanding of the potential risks associated with the ECT, including its implications for fossil fuel lock-in, investor-state dispute mechanisms, and the constraints it may place on national policy space for climate action and sustainable energy

planning. The session also provided a platform for students to explore their role in shaping policy discourse and advancing youth-led advocacy for climate-resilient and low-carbon development pathways.

The lecture brought together approximately 90 participants, including environmental science students, leaders from the Kyambogo University Environmental Management Association (KUEMA), and youth representatives from civil society organizations. The interactive session enabled participants to share perspectives, ask critical questions, and discuss the broader implications of international energy governance frameworks for Uganda's development trajectory.

Following the engagement, students-initiated peer-to-peer discussions

and inter-university interactions to sustain dialogue on the ECT, just energy transition, and the need for inclusive and sustainable energy policies. These efforts contributed to building a network of informed youth advocates capable of engaging in public discourse and policy processes.

The engagement strengthened collaboration between students and civil society actors and contributed to broader advocacy efforts aimed at informing national debate on Uganda's position regarding the ECT.

Through this initiative, EGI helped foster critical awareness and youth mobilization around the long-term climate and development risks associated with treaty provisions that could undermine efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and advance a just and sustainable energy future.



*An Environment student at kyambogo giving her view on student role on energy transition*

## KA7 Launched a research report on extortion, coercion, and impoverishment in Kingfisher



### Extortion, Coercion, and Impoverishment

*Human Rights Abuses and Governance Failures in the China National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) Kingfisher Oil and Gas Project*

SEPTEMBER 2025

In September 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI), in partnership with Climate Rights International (CRI), released a new investigative report uncovering fresh human rights abuses linked to Uganda's Kingfisher Oil Project. The report paints a disturbing picture of communities living under militarized control, facing forced evictions without compensation, extortion of fishing livelihoods, and harassment of women traders.

Access to traditional fishing grounds has been blocked, leaving families

without income or food security, while rising teenage pregnancies and exploitation reveal the deep social fractures caused by the project's operations.

This new publication builds on earlier investigations including CRI's "They Don't Want People to Stay Here" (September 2024) and EGI's Regional Study on Oil and Human Rights (November 2024) which collectively documented forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, labor rights violations, and gender-based violence associated with oil and gas developments in

Uganda, the DRC, and Tanzania.

Together, these findings expose a consistent and troubling pattern: oil development across the region is eroding fundamental rights, deepening poverty, and degrading the environment, while failing to deliver the promised social and economic benefits. For the communities at the frontline, "development" has come to mean dispossession, fear, and unending uncertainty, a stark reminder of the urgent need for justice, accountability, and people-centered energy transitions in Africa.

## KA8 Published advocacy materials to influence clean energy and climate smart national and international policies

EGI additionally created a variety of informative materials, such as fact

sheets, infographics, videos, flyers, and briefs.

These materials presented compelling evidence of the negative impacts associated with fossil fuels while highlighting the numerous advantages of transitioning to clean energy alternatives. They were disseminated

to local communities, youth groups and women associations at community level. These efforts have yielded positive outcomes, including the increased public awareness of impacts of oil and gas and other materials used for Stop EACOP demonstrations in Uganda.

**Oil and gas developments: A ticking time bomb to health in African Communities**  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

**Introduction**

Africa is well endowed with energy resources, including oil and gas. In total, about 55% of global crude oil reserves and 8% of gas reserves are in Africa. In 2025, 12% of global production come from Africa, but the region only consumes 3.4% of global oil. Africa's share of global gas consumption is only 2%.

Oil and gas resources are concentrated in a number of countries and sub-regions North and Western Africa. These are Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, Angola, Egypt, Sudan, Equatorial Guinea, the Congo Republic, Chad, Gabon, Tunisia, Cameroon, and Uganda, among others.

However, amidst oil demands in Africa, the continent still grapples with the worst air pollution and some of the most severe health consequences in the world due to oil and gas developments. In 2019, air pollution was the second leading risk factor for death across Africa, a large and dynamic continent that is home to more than 1.2 billion people. In terms of ambient fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), 5 of the world's 10 most heavily polluted countries are in Africa.

Worse still, African countries such as Nigeria, Chad, Egypt, Algeria, and Namibia, among others, have had their oil developments and imposing the health of aquatic coastal water communities jeopardized.

A case in reference is the coastal waters of Namibia and South Africa, which have had a history of about 70 oil spills recorded up to 2021. Thirty nine spills reportedly affected 83,224 seabirds, with African penguins (*Spheniscus demissus*, 91%) and Cape gannets (*Morus capensis*, 8.5%) most affected. Spills affecting seabirds were caused by unknown sources (46%), bulk cargo carriers (43%), tankers (5%), and ship-to-ship transfers (4%).

Further still, the Ogoni land in Nigeria has to date experienced about 2,976 separate oil spills leaking into water bodies in the Niger delta, leaving hosting communities with a number of health issues, such as early menopause in women. Life expectancy in the Niger Delta of 41 years, 10 years lower than the national average and the bioaccumulation of oil heavy metals such as lead and cadmium affecting nutrient content of the crops and health of children.

In this background, this fact sheet aims to reiterate and emphasize past oil and gas development health effects suffered by communities in Africa.

**Cadmium oil effect on Women**

The concentrations of cadmium in the surface water and food crops exposed members of the impacted communities to 0.2 mg of cadmium daily, which is more than the 0.03 mg/day reference dose for a 60 kg adult. Cadmium is regarded as a cumulative toxin because of the human body's ability to excrete just 0.001% of the amount ingested in a day. Although it is considered a generally carcinogenic metal, chronic toxicity affects the kidney, bones, and liver and prevents mostly in post-menopausal women as "hot-flash" disease with severe osteoporosis and osteomalacia, renal dysfunction, and normochromic anemia.

**Reduced Nutrient content of food crops**

African countries notably Nigeria, Libya, South Africa, and Egypt, among others, have often suffered perpetual oil spills that have consequently contaminated surface water, ground water, ambient air and crops with hydrocarbons, including carcinogens that bio-accumulate in some food crops. These oil spills have been estimated to have contributed to about a 60% reduction in household food

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**Oil and Gas Impacts in Africa; key lessons for Uganda**

**How oil and gas is hindering development in African nations.**

Environment Governance Institute Uganda

## 6.2 Environment and Human rights program

### Key activities under this program include the following;

#### 6.2.1. Supported Tilenga oil affected Youth and women to document community issues to Total Energies EP

In September 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) conducted a community engagement with oil-affected youth and women in Kasinyi Village, Buliisa District, within the Tilenga project area. The visit aimed to provide feedback from TotalEnergies EP regarding a petition submitted

by affected communities in June 2025, which called for urgent action to address emerging social and environmental concerns.

Community members highlighted several persistent challenges, including flooding around the Central Processing Facility (CPF) and associated water contamination risks, dust and noise pollution, intimidation and security-related threats, limited access to safe drinking water, and the impact of flowline construction on approximately 20 households. These issues continue to affect community health, livelihoods, and overall well-being.

The engagement formed part of EGI's broader approach to strengthening community voice and supporting structured dialogue between affected populations and project operators. During the meeting, EGI worked with participants to review TotalEnergies' response, document outstanding concerns, and identify priority issues requiring follow-up and accountability.

Recognizing the growing socio-economic pressures in the area, EGI also facilitated discussions on sustainable livelihood options as practical coping and resilience strategies. Participants shared experiences of income loss, environmental degradation, and

reduced access to natural resources, and explored alternative livelihood pathways to help restore household stability.

To strengthen collective advocacy, EGI encouraged community members to consider community-led media engagement, including a potential press dialogue to elevate their

concerns and highlight the human impacts of ongoing oil operations.

The session concluded with the identification of concrete follow-up actions to enhance local organization, evidence documentation, and continued engagement with duty bearers.

Through this intervention, EGI strengthened the capacity of affected youth and women to articulate their concerns, engage project operators more effectively, and participate in advocacy processes aimed at improving accountability, protecting livelihoods, and ensuring that oil development respects community rights and environmental standards.



*Youth, women and elderly in kasinyi village, Bulisa share key concerns to petition Total on emerging Tilenga oil impacts*

### 6.2.2. Exposed hidden human rights abuses affecting oil-hosting fishing communities in Kikuube

In June 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) conducted a follow-up field assessment in the Kingfisher oil project area in Kikuube District to evaluate the implementation of previous recommendations and assess the evolving human rights situation among affected communities. The findings revealed a concerning environment where oil development progress continues to be

accompanied by restricted civic space, livelihood disruptions, and growing environmental risks.

Despite official claims of improved community engagement, access to villages such as Nsonga and Nsuzu B remains tightly controlled, requiring prior justification and subject to military scrutiny. While local security leadership was reported to be more approachable, the broader system of control persists, limiting community autonomy and access to traditional land and water resources that are critical for livelihoods.

Fishing communities reported only partial restoration of access to Lake Albert, with continued restrictions along key shoreline areas. Community members also described the presence of barricades affecting fishing grounds and breeding areas, alongside reports of informal payments of approximately UGX 200,000 (about USD 52) every two weeks to uniformed security personnel. These payments, reportedly enforced through threats of arrest or boat confiscation, have created a system of informal taxation that further burdens already vulnerable households.

EGI also observed the construction of a metal barricade along sections of the lakeshore by CNOOC Uganda Ltd, reportedly approved by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to protect oil infrastructure from rising water levels. However, the structure has blocked access to shallow waters that serve as critical fish breeding areas and has significantly disrupted women's livelihoods, particularly those dependent on small-scale fishing and fish drying activities. Communities further reported declining water quality and increasing pollution since the escalation of oil operations.

These findings highlight the urgent need for both government and project operators to strengthen human rights protections, uphold environmental safeguards, and restore equitable community access to natural resources essential for survival and economic stability.

### 6.2.3. Joined solidarity campaign calling for the release of detained #StopEACOP activists (KCB11)

In June 2025, EGI joined civil society partners, community representatives, and activists in Kampala under the umbrella of the EACOP Host Communities platform to express solidarity and raise concern over the continued detention of eleven environmental defenders, widely known as the KCB11.

The activists were arrested on 23 April 2025 while attempting to peacefully deliver a letter to KCB Bank Uganda, expressing their opposition to the bank's involvement in financing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). According to participating organizations, the activists were invited into the bank premises for further

discussion but were subsequently reported to police and charged with criminal trespass.

EGI supported the development and amplification of a joint public statement led by the EACOP Host Communities platform, calling for the immediate release of the activists and condemning actions perceived to undermine the rights to peaceful protest and civic expression. The solidarity action formed part of broader civil society efforts responding to the March 2025 syndicated financing of EACOP by several commercial banks.

Through this engagement, EGI contributed to national advocacy efforts highlighting concerns over shrinking civic space, the criminalization of environmental activism, and the responsibility of financial institutions to respect human rights and international standards on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.



*EGI, EACOP Host communities and CSO partners in the group photo to show solidarity and demand justice of KCB11 arrested climate activists*

## 6.3 Ecosystems and Livelihood restoration program

### KA 6.3.1 Bwindi Women and Reformed Poachers Advance Community Conservation through Vegetable Farming

What began as a small skills development initiative for five groups of former poachers in Ruhija and Buhoma has grown into a powerful story of transformation, resilience, and community-led conservation. Through targeted support from the Environment Governance Institute (EGI), individuals who once depended on forest resources for survival have transitioned into productive vegetable farmers, rebuilding their livelihoods while becoming active partners in protecting Bwindi's fragile ecosystem.

This shift came at a critical time for the communities. Tea farming, which had long served as the backbone of the local economy, had become increasingly unviable, with farmers earning as little as UGX 500 per

kilogram far below what is needed to meet basic household needs. For marginalized groups, particularly the Batwa and vulnerable Bakiga households, the situation was even more severe. Limited access to land, weak market linkages, and exclusion from conservation-related benefits left many with few options, pushing some toward poaching and unsustainable forest use as a means of survival.

In response, EGI introduced an integrated, climate-resilient livelihoods initiative centered on sustainable vegetable production. The program provided practical skills, starter support, and guidance on environmentally friendly farming practices that require minimal land and offer quicker returns. The transition from forest-dependent activities to small-scale horticulture has enabled participating households to generate regular income, improve household nutrition, and restore dignity and self-

reliance.

Beyond livelihood gains, the initiative is delivering important conservation outcomes providing viable economic alternatives, the program has reduced dependence on illegal forest activities and strengthened community support for protecting Bwindi's biodiversity, including critical mountain gorilla habitats. Former poachers are now becoming advocates for conservation, demonstrating how inclusive livelihood support can transform both lives and landscapes.

The experience from Ruhija and Buhoma highlights the importance of linking conservation with economic opportunity, ensuring that communities living alongside protected areas are empowered as stewards rather than excluded stakeholders in the long-term protection of Uganda's natural heritage.



*John Peter Okwi and nkwenda women groups in Buhoma, Bwindi, monitoring progress of household vegetable growing*

### KA 6.3.2 Published IUCN Success Story: “Beyond the Forest” A Community-Based Model for Gorilla Conservation in Bwindi

In May 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) documented and published a major success story titled “Beyond the Forest,” highlighting its community-driven approach to strengthening mountain gorilla conservation in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The publication showcased lessons and evidence from EGI’s work with communities in Kanungu and Kabale Districts, presenting a replicable model

that links livelihood improvement with long-term conservation outcomes.

The success story captured a series of targeted, data-informed, and community-centered interventions designed to address the underlying socio-economic drivers of human-wildlife conflict and forest dependence. By incorporating the perspectives and lived experiences of frontline communities, the initiative demonstrated how conservation efforts can be strengthened when local needs, incentives, and priorities are meaningfully integrated.

Home to over 459 mountain gorillas, Bwindi remains one of the

world’s most critical conservation landscapes. EGI’s approach focused on improving community attitudes toward gorilla protection through inclusive engagement, awareness, and the promotion of diversified, climate-resilient livelihood options. These mixed livelihood strategies helped reduce pressure on forest resources while improving household income, food security, and community ownership of conservation efforts.

The “Beyond the Forest” publication documented measurable local impacts and positioned the Bwindi experience as a scalable and adaptable model for community-based conservation.



### KA 6.3.3 Advocated for strengthened regional wetland conservation and restoration efforts in Uganda

In February 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) joined national and global stakeholders in commemorating World Wetlands Day under the theme **“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future.”** As part of this engagement, EGI contributed to national policy dialogue through a thought leadership article published in the *Daily Monitor* titled **“Align Wetlands Conservation Efforts.”**

The publication highlighted the urgent need for Uganda to adopt more coordinated and region-specific approaches to wetland conservation, drawing attention to persistent gaps in implementation, enforcement, and resource allocation. EGI’s advocacy was informed by the National

Wetlands Status Report (2020), which indicates that wetland loss and degradation across the country continue to outpace restoration efforts and available resources.

The analysis underscored the scale of regional degradation, noting that over the past 25 years, wetlands in the Eastern region have experienced approximately 46% degradation, compared to 29% in the Central region, 28% in the Western region, and 21% in the Northern region. These trends point to increasing pressure from urban expansion, agriculture, infrastructure development, and weak enforcement of existing environmental regulations.

Through this advocacy, EGI called for the development of **region-specific restoration action plans**, stronger enforcement of wetland protection laws, non-selective application of conservation measures, and increased investment in ecosystem restoration.

The organization also emphasized the need to align national restoration efforts with broader climate resilience, water security, and livelihood protection objectives.

At the policy level, Uganda’s National Development Plan IV (2025–2030) prioritizes increasing national wetland coverage from 9.3% to 11% by 2026. By late 2025, government data indicated that approximately 13.9% of wetlands were under protection, reflecting progress but also underscoring the need for sustained restoration and effective management to reverse long-term degradation trends.

Through this intervention, EGI contributed to strengthening public awareness, policy debate, and accountability around the protection of wetlands as critical ecosystems for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods.



### KA 6.3.4 Charted a climate and livelihoods resilience pathway for Kyakaboga oil-affected communities

Communities resettled in Kyakaboga Resettlement Camp continue to face multiple and overlapping challenges following displacement due to oil development. Many households are struggling with infertile land, unresolved compensation-related

court cases, reduced grazing space, limited access to water and health services, socio-cultural tensions, and increasing climate variability. These pressures have significantly undermined traditional livelihood systems and heightened economic vulnerability.

In September 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) convened a community engagement with affected

households in Kyakaboga to identify practical pathways for climate-resilient livelihoods and strengthen community-led recovery efforts. The meeting focused on exploring alternative income opportunities suited to the camp’s environmental constraints, promoting value addition for women and youth groups, and supporting community advocacy for improved access to off-grid solar energy solutions.

Earlier, in August 2025, community leaders successfully pushed for the official opening of a government-constructed community market that had remained unused for several years. With coordination and support from EGI and local civil society actors, the market was operationalized, creating an important local economic hub.

Recognizing this opportunity, EGI worked with community groups to identify climate-resilient enterprises that could leverage the new market space.

Discussions prioritized low-cost, water-efficient livelihood options

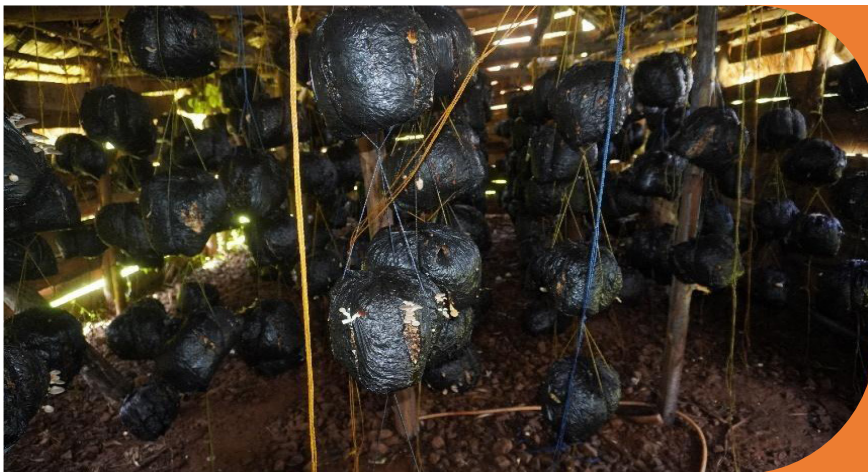
such as mushroom production, which can thrive under dry conditions and requires minimal land.

Community consultations helped identify locally available materials for mushroom substrate preparation, including maize and millet husks as viable alternatives to less accessible inputs.

EGI introduced women and youth groups to the economic potential of mushroom farming, noting its short production cycle of two to three weeks and relatively low start-up costs, making it suitable for the resource-constrained resettlement context.

For women's groups already engaged in beekeeping, EGI facilitated practical sessions on value addition, including improved honey filtering, packaging, and branding techniques to enhance product quality and increase market value.

Through these interventions, EGI moved beyond advocacy to support practical resilience-building measures, helping displaced communities diversify income sources, strengthen economic recovery, and adapt to the combined pressures of displacement, environmental change, and climate variability.



*Sample mushroom garden planned to be set up in Kyakaboga's oil resettlement center*

*Twende belle woman representative in Hoima showcasing progress on honey production, gaps in value additions and challenges*



### 6.3.5 Empowered over 100 oil-affected households in Kijumba and Katooke with fruit seedlings for climate-resilient livelihoods

In June 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) convened a community engagement in Kijumba Sub-county, Hoima District, aimed at strengthening the resilience of oil-affected households and providing a platform for collective reflection on the impacts of ongoing oil development. The meeting brought together over 50 project-affected persons from Kijumba and Katooke villages, where participants shared their experiences of livelihood loss,

land access challenges, environmental degradation, and the broader social and economic pressures associated with oil operations.

The engagement created a safe space for community members to voice concerns, document lived experiences, and strengthen collective advocacy around their rights and the need for accountability and redress.

As part of the intervention, EGI supported more than 100 oil-affected households with tree and fruit seedlings. This initiative was designed to promote climate-resilient livelihoods, restore degraded landscapes, and provide sustainable

income opportunities, particularly for households that have lost agricultural land or experienced delays and gaps in compensation.

The distribution of fruit and tree seedlings supports long-term household nutrition and income while contributing to environmental restoration, soil improvement, and local climate adaptation efforts. By integrating livelihood support with ecosystem restoration and community empowerment, EGI continues to strengthen grassroots resilience and support community-led responses to the social and environmental disruptions associated with oil development in the Albertine region.



Group photo with Kijumba communities with fruit and tree seedlings

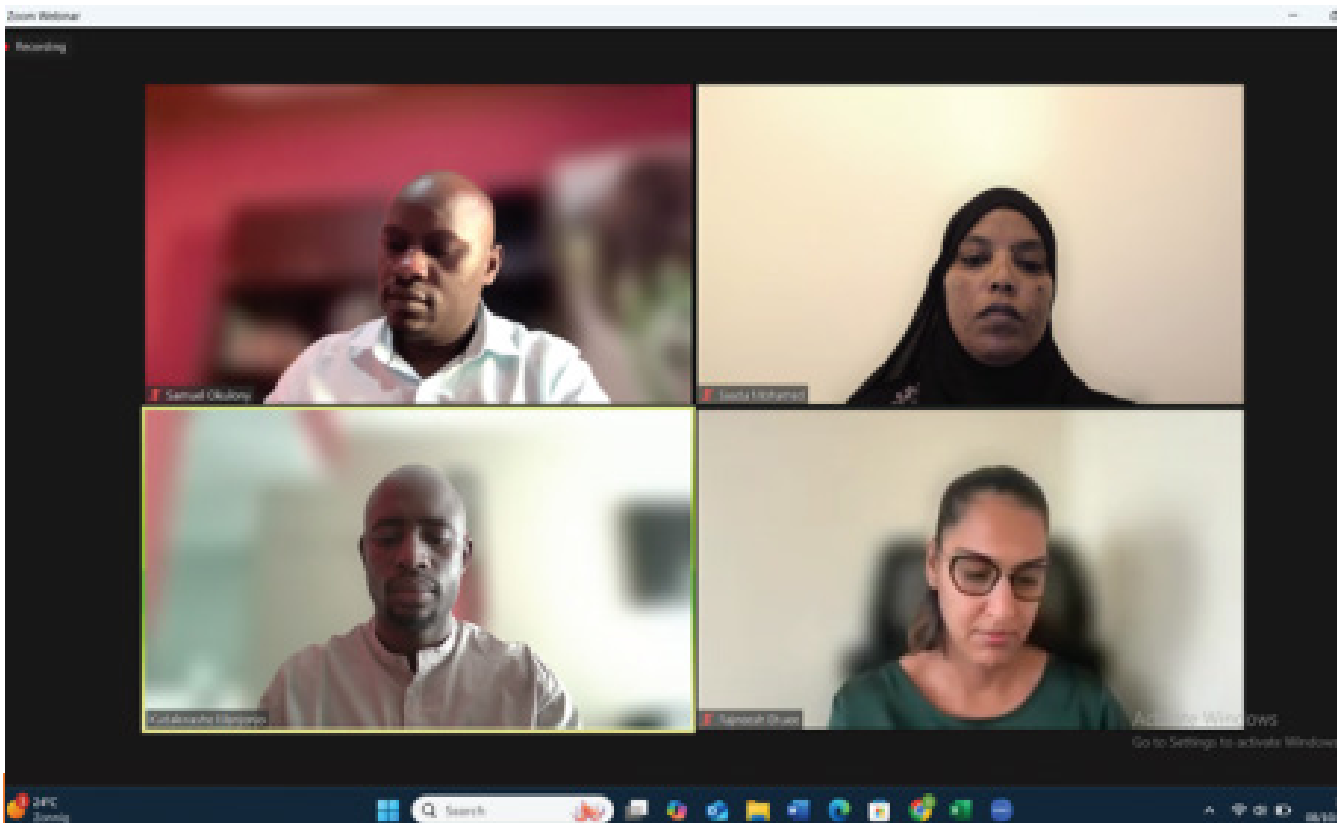
# 7.0 International, regional and national partner joint discussions on JET, ECA public finance and climate change

## 7.1 Webinar on bankrolling Africa’s future: Is AFREXIM driving a just transition or fossil lock-in?

The African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM) stands among the most influential financial institutions shaping Africa’s trade, industrial growth, and energy landscape. However, its continued investment in oil and gas infrastructure has sparked critical debate about the bank’s true contribution to Africa’s sustainable development. While AFREXIM positions itself as a champion of green

industrialization, its financing patterns risk deepening fossil fuel dependence and undermining the continent’s transition to renewable energy. To explore these contradictions, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) joined a regional webinar convened by Power Shift Africa, where the AFREXIM Campaign Factsheet was officially launched. This factsheet serves as an evidence-based advocacy

tool that exposes how AFREXIM’s financial decisions influence Africa’s energy transitions, shape trade and investment policies, and directly impact communities whose livelihoods are tied to these industries. The discussion underscored the urgent need for the bank to realign its lending priorities with climate commitments, social equity, and long-term resilience for African economies.



*Samuel Okulony and other panelist during a webinar on bankrolling Africa’s future and driving Afreximbank actions to Just Energy Transition*

## 7.2 EGI Advocated for better policies during the OECD CSO forum.

In March, 2025, our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Samuel Okulony, participated in the Civil Society Organizations Forum of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The forum offered a vital platform for civil society to engage with representatives from OECD member countries on strategies to improve policies for better lives. During the opening expert panel on Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, Mr. Okulony emphasized the urgent need to align development policies

with the realities on the ground. He advocated for increased investment in initiatives that respond to the development priorities of recipient countries, particularly in the face of escalating climate challenges. He highlighted the emerging and devastating impacts of climate change, including floods and mudslides that have claimed thousands of lives in Uganda, and the recent heatwaves that disrupted schooling and endangered children's health. He stressed the need for collective global action to mitigate climate change and protect

vulnerable communities. Mr. Okulony underscored that public finance must not be used to fuel destruction but should instead promote sustainable and inclusive development. His key message focused on the importance of inclusive policies that uphold the rights of frontline communities particularly the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and ensure that development support aligns with the needs of the Global South, while advancing climate action and long-term sustainability.



*EGI director, Samuel Okulony with other panelist in a group photo during OECD engagements*

## 7.3 EGI Participated in climate negotiation in COP 30

COP30 concluded in Brazil with deep disappointment for countries in the Global South, including Uganda, as outcomes fell far short of the scale of action required to address the accelerating climate crisis. While the conference reaffirmed global concern over climate change, it failed to deliver meaningful commitments on climate finance and fossil fuel phase-out.

Climate finance dominated negotiations, with the Global South calling for USD 1.3 trillion to support adaptation and mitigation in climate-vulnerable countries. Instead, only about USD 300 billion was pledged, an amount widely viewed as inadequate given the growing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, such as the deadly landslides in

Uganda's Bulambuli district following extreme rainfall.

Another major shortcoming was the lack of progress on transitioning away from fossil fuels, despite oil, gas, and coal being the primary drivers of climate change. The absence of firm commitments delays urgently needed emissions reductions and

places further strain on vulnerable communities already bearing the brunt of climate impacts. While Uganda and African countries participated strongly and presented a united position, the negotiations remained gridlocked by the failure of Global North countries to acknowledge and pay their climate debt. This deadlock was exacerbated by the outsized influence of fossil fuel interests, with over 1,700 fossil fuel lobbyists present outnumbering delegates from the most climate-vulnerable nations and undermining

equitable representation. The adoption of weak carbon credit mechanisms further raised concerns about greenwashing, speculation, and fraud, rather than delivering real emissions cuts. Frustration among vulnerable nations was evident when delegations from the Alliance of Small Island States walked out of talks over ignored demands on climate finance. Despite these failures, COP30 underscored the continued relevance of multilateral climate negotiations provided

significant reforms are made. Key proposed resolution limiting fossil fuel lobbyist influence strengthening transparency and binding commitments, ensuring fair representation for vulnerable countries, and expanding space for Indigenous peoples, grassroots movements, and scientific institutions. Countries are also urged to raise ambition in their upcoming national climate plans, particularly on finance, adaptation, and a just transition away from fossil fuels, to prevent further escalation of the climate crisis.



*EGI participates at COP30 climate discussions in Belem*



## 7.4 Joined Climate Activists United under the Oil watch Africa to advance climate justice

In September 2025, EGI joined a strategic meeting with climate activists under the Oil watch Africa to advance climate justice, oppose oil exploitation and call for reparations for African nations’ climate impacts. In a vibrant discussion co-hosted by the African Energy Institute (AFIEGO), EGI together with other activists issued a communique condemning Africa’s ongoing dependence on fossil fuels and advancing drastic avenues for quick transition to renewable and cleaner

energy resources. Samuel Okulony, EGI chief executive office keynote message underscored the need to prioritize sustainable community needs and advocated for means that would protect communities from fossil fuel harm.

“Uganda stands to lose nothing by leaving oil in the ground. In fact, we would gain by avoiding the devastation oil brings. Even before the first barrel is extracted, communities

in Bulisa and Hoima are already experiencing consequences of massive displacement”, said Okulony Samuel.

Kentebe Ebiaridor, the coordinator of Oil watch International stressed the need for Africans and activists for Africa there-in to unite and define Environment Justice. Joint voices in the meeting re-echoed deliberate efforts to halt harmful effects of oil extraction in African communities.



*Snap shot photo of EGI and other climate justice experts under oil watch international umbrella*

## 7.5 EGI participates in a round table discussion on climate action and just energy transition

In August 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) participated in a Roundtable Discussion on Climate Action and Just Transition, convened to foster meaningful local dialogues

and build stronger alliances within Africa’s growing Just Transition movement. The session served as a vital learning and strategy platform ahead of key global climate events

including the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) and COP30 helping to sustain momentum and bridge grassroots realities with global policy frameworks.

*John (EGI), in green colored t shirt, in a group photo after the pre-African climate summit CSO engagements*




The roundtable was designed to strategically prepare civil society and community actors for bilateral engagements at the upcoming summits by identifying key advocacy priorities, refining policy positions, and ensuring the meaningful inclusion of

vulnerable groups particularly women, youth, children, and indigenous peoples in climate action planning and decision-making processes.

Organized in an interactive, open-discussion format, the event featured

four keynote presentations followed by participant reflections and experience sharing. Speakers emphasized that many women still lack access to skills, resources, and confidence needed to fully participate in climate leadership spaces



SECTION  
3

# 8.0 Media Engagement and Visibility

## 8.1 Enhanced media reporting on issues related to energy transition

In 2025, the media space in Uganda kept shrinking as they feared reporting directly on the impacts of oil and gas activities in Uganda. EGI worked with national and international journalists to do investigative stories on the impacts of oil and gas projects on host communities, impacts on biodiversity and tourism, and potential energy

transitions. Despite the fact that these stories were pivotal in creating campaign momentum, there are still observed retaliations from oil companies. It is noteworthy that some of the stories were adapted at the local media level and have continued to enhance advocacy against the financing of EACOP and oil activities

in Uganda. This has encouraged some media outlets to report on the effects of the fossil fuel project and thus the need for an urgent transition to clean energy. To date, over 30 stories about negative oil impacts in the community have been published in the media, with over 100 tweets about the same stories.

Throughout the year 2025 Media has been pivotal in fostering our campaigns and continued to play a significant role in aiding the dissemination of EGI research reports and campaign messages to foster public reach to Information concerning climate change, impacts of ECA supported fossil fuel projects and implication to Just energy campaign. The media participated in the dissemination of our investigative findings on the human rights violations and governance failures surrounding Kingfisher oil developments in Uganda. Over ten online stories were extracted from the report and published by different media online platforms in Uganda and other international platforms, spanning a reach of about 3500 audience, ultimately sustaining local to global campaigns against devastating oil developments, and played a key role in enabling community members, leaders and private investors to make informed decisions.

EGI secured over 5 media interviews to bolster the campaign message and underscored key recommendations of the investigative research, calling for reparations and redress of human rights violations in oil operation zones in the Albertine region. conducted community-based radio debates (Kimeeza) in 15 districts.

**NEWS**  
The Observer • WEDNESDAY • October 15-21, 2025 5

**ROBERT SPIN MUKASA**

### New report exposes the human toll of Uganda's oil push

**KAMPALA** - When Uganda struck oil along the shores of Lake Albert, international investors hailed it as East Africa's next great energy frontier. China's Cnooc, France's TotalEnergies, and the state-backed Uganda National Oil Company positioned the Kingfisher project as a model of modern extraction. But a new investigation by the Environment Governance Institute and Climate Rights International suggests the project is fast becoming a case study in how fossil fuel deals can go wrong, economically, socially and ecologically.

Behind the government promises of growth and infrastructure lies a reality of military-enforced displacement, collapsing livelihoods, environmental damage and a surge in gendered exploitation. The abuses detailed in the report echo patterns seen in extractive projects from the Niger Delta to the Amazon, where communities pay the price for wealth they will never see. Now, Uganda's oil gambit, it is not only reshaping local lives, it is testing the global claims of ethical energy investment in the Global South.

Their findings raise an uncomfortable question: Who is development for, if those living on the land pay the highest price? Residents in the Kingfisher project area now live under constant military surveillance. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) enforce curfews, monitor movement, and restrict access to the lake, according to the report.

Roadblocks and boat seizures have turned everyday life into a negotiation with armed power. Fishing communities, long dependent on the lake, report being stopped, searched, and sometimes detained without explanation. The report notes that restrictions "have devastated traditional livelihoods," with women and children particularly affected as the military presence disrupts daily commerce and community life.

Fishing, once the backbone of the local economy, is collapsing under the weight of extortion and arbitrary "fees." Fishermen whose boats are impounded rarely recover them. Those who cannot bribe lose their only source of income. Women, who dominate fish trading and small-scale commerce, face harassment at informal checkpoints, pushing them further to the margins. This isn't just economic pressure; it's the quiet erasure of a way of life. Oil infrastructure has reshaped the lake itself. A metallic wall erected to secure installations has disrupted critical fish breeding zones. Residents say the water has a brown murk and carries a chemical smell near extraction points. With no alternatives, families continue to use the lake for drinking, cooking, and washing, even as fears of waterborne disease rise.

The lake that once sustained them is becoming a source of anxiety. Land acquisition has been routed through Bucools, a Cnooc-linked company, allowing the oil consortium to bypass traditional landowners and avoid compensation obligations. Families report evictions at gunpoint, with no resettlement support and no transparency about their rights. A Resettlement

**Action Plan exists, but remains unpublished.** This quiet land grab exposes how state power and private capital converge to push people out with minimal scrutiny.

Despite changes in local military leadership, sexual exploitation persists around the project. Some women and girls have turned to transactional sex as economic survival narrows. Teenage pregnancies are rising faster in villages closest to drilling sites. Schools and clinics remain under-resourced and overwhelmed.

Oil was meant to bring opportunity. For many women, it has deepened vulnerability. The Kingfisher project, together with Tilenga and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), is projected to emit 170 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the next 25 years. That's more than twice the combined annual emissions of Uganda and Tanzania. The figures stand in direct conflict with the Paris climate goals.

As world leaders urge rapid decarbonization, Uganda is steering itself into a future locked to fossil fuel dependency.

**WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE—AND FAST** The report issues a set of urgent demands. First, it calls for an immediate suspension of oil operations and an independent investigation into abuses. A temporary halt, the authors argue, is the only way to properly assess the human rights violations and environmental harm already unfolding.

It also urges full compensation and legal redress for communities that have been displaced or stripped

of their livelihoods. Silence and dispossession, the report notes, cannot be the cost of development. Another recommendation is a shift away from fossil fuel expansion toward community-led renewable energy initiatives. Instead of deepening dependence on oil, the groups push for investments that place people—not projects—at the center.

Finally, the report demands strict adherence to international human rights and environmental standards. It presses Cnooc, TotalEnergies, and state authorities to comply with global frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles and IPC performance guidelines.

These measures, the authors warn, are not just corrective—they are necessary if Uganda's energy ambitions are to avoid becoming a long-term liability.

Kingfisher is no longer just a Ugandan issue. Financial institutions, climate advocates, and international observers see it as a warning to emerging oil economies: when governance is weak, fossil fuel investments can deepen poverty instead of reducing it.

Uganda now stands at a crossroads. The choices made—by government, companies, and financiers—will determine whether oil becomes a national asset or a generational wound.

This is no longer just about profit or policy. It's about the lives reshaped by decisions made far from the lakeshore, and the future of communities who were promised prosperity but handed something else entirely.

**Journalists and stakeholders in oil and gas tour Kingfisher central processing facility, recently**

**KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE KINGFISHER OIL INVESTIGATION**

- MILITARIZED CONTROL**  
Residents live under UPDF surveillance with curfews, checkpoints, and boat seizures disrupting daily life.
- LIVELIHOODS DESTROYED**  
Fishing communities face extortion, equipment confiscation, and economic exclusion, especially among women traders.
- ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE**  
Oil infrastructure is degrading Lake Albert's water quality and decimating fish breeding zones.
- LAND LOSE WITHOUT JUSTICE**  
Families are being displaced through a CNOOC-linked entity, with no compensation or public resettlement plan.
- GENDERED VULNERABILITY**  
Economic desperation has driven a spike in survival sex work and teenage pregnancies near oil sites.
- CLIMATE IMPACT**  
Projected emissions from Kingfisher, Tilenga, and EACOP exceed 170 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over 25 years—far above Uganda and Tanzania's annual output combined.
- WHAT'S BEING DEMANDED**  
Civil society calls for a halt to operations, reparations for affected communities, accountability for abuses, and a pivot to renewable energy.

## Energy Charter Treaty is Irrelevant to Africa

# Energy Charter Treaty irrelevant to Africa

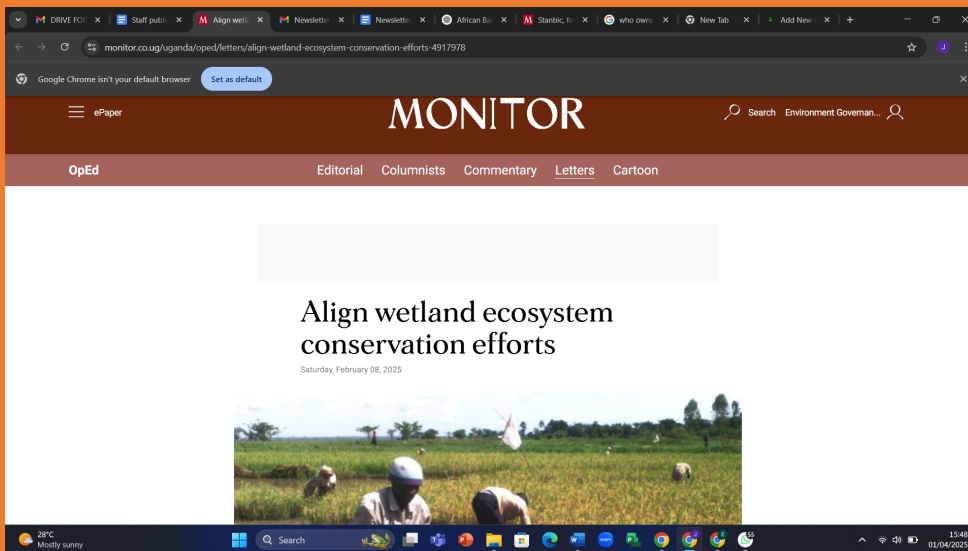
Friday, February 28, 2025



Records show Uganda has an estimated 6.5 billion barrels of oil reserves, with 1.4 billion barrels considered to be economically recoverable. PHOTO / FILE

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/energy-charter-treaty-irrelevant-to-africa-4945394>

## Align wetland conservation efforts



<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/align-wetland-ecosystem-conservation-efforts-4917978>

## Kilembe 2nd chance can be a catalyst for Uganda's clean energy transition



<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/2nd-chance-can-be-a-catalyst-for-uganda-s-clean-energy-transition-5057242>

## Gold beneath our feet, avoid the resource curse

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## Gold beneath our feet: Avoid the resource curse

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## Extortion-Coercion and impoverishment surround kingfisher oil project



## Extortion, Coercion, and Impoverishment

*Human Rights Abuses and Governance Failures in the China National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) Kingfisher Oil and Gas Project*

SEPTEMBER 2025

<https://www.ugstandard.com/extortion-coercion-and-impoverishment-surrounds-kingfisher-project-report/>



# SECTION

# 4

## 9.0 International Networks and Collaborations

In 2025, the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) strengthened its engagement in regional and international networks to advance collective advocacy for climate justice, accountable public finance, and sustainable natural resource governance. The organization actively collaborated with key alliances including the Stop EACOP Coalition, Oilwatch International, Climate Rights International, and other civil society platforms working to promote a just energy transition and responsible resource management.

These partnerships have been instrumental in amplifying EGI's

advocacy at national, regional, and global levels, enabling coordinated research, joint campaigns, policy engagement, and strategic communications. Through these networks, EGI contributed to efforts aimed at reducing fossil fuel dependence, strengthening corporate and financial accountability, and promoting development pathways that prioritize renewable energy, environmental protection, and the rights of affected communities.

EGI's collaboration within these platforms is guided by a shared vision of advancing a modern energy system that is low-carbon, socially

inclusive, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, children, and marginalized communities.

The organization also continued to engage development partners and diplomatic actors to strengthen international support for climate and environmental priorities. Building on earlier engagement with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala, EGI maintained dialogue on key challenges related to clean energy access, forest conservation, and community resilience, while exploring opportunities for strategic partnership and technical collaboration.

## 10.0 Institutional Building and Strengthening

In response to a dynamic operating and funding environment, EGI prioritized institutional strengthening in 2025 to enhance organizational resilience, effectiveness, and long-term sustainability. With the support of its partners, the organization invested in staff capacity development across key technical and strategic areas.

Capacity-building efforts focused on strengthening skills in negotiation and policy engagement, sustainable financing and resource mobilization, strategic lobbying and advocacy,

impact documentation and storytelling, physical and digital security, safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), and analysis of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs).

Staff participated in a range of national and international trainings, workshops, and peer learning platforms, enabling them to deepen technical expertise and stay informed on emerging trends in climate policy, public finance, and extractive sector governance.

The enhanced institutional capacity has strengthened the quality and effectiveness of EGI's advocacy, improved evidence generation and strategic communications, and contributed to stronger engagement with policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners. In addition, the strengthened skills in fundraising and organizational management have supported efforts to diversify resources and position the organization for long-term sustainability.



SECTION

5

# 10.1 Challenges And Priorities

## 11.1 Challenges and Lessons Learned in 2025

Despite the significant progress achieved during the year, EGI faced a number of operational and strategic challenges. These experiences provided important lessons and highlighted the complex and evolving context within which we operate.

### 1. Continued Financial Support for EACOP

The first tranche of external financial support for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) was secured from five financial institutions, including Afreximbank, Standard Bank of South Africa Limited, Stanbic Bank Uganda, KCB Bank Uganda, and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). This development constrained ongoing climate justice efforts and demonstrated the persistent influence of financial actors in advancing fossil fuel infrastructure despite growing global calls for a transition to clean energy.

### 2. Shrinking Civic Space and Risks to Environmental Defenders

The year was marked by a continued pattern of arrests, threats, and intimidation targeting climate and environmental justice activists. Environmental Human Rights Defenders opposing EACOP faced arbitrary arrests and judicial harassment. In April 2025, eleven environmental defenders (commonly referred to as the “KCB 11”) were arrested following a peaceful protest against KCB Bank’s decision to support EACOP. Such incidents created fear among local activists and underscored the growing risks to civic space and fundamental freedoms.

### 3. Escalating Climate Impacts

Extreme weather events continued to affect communities and program implementation.

Global climate data indicated record-high temperatures in recent years, and parts of the Albertine Graben experienced heavy flooding that displaced households and disrupted livelihoods, directly affecting many of EGI’s project beneficiaries.

### 4. Persistent Interest by Export Credit Agencies in Fossil Fuel Financing

The continued interest of Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) and other public finance institutions in supporting fossil fuel projects remained a major obstacle to efforts aimed at shifting finance toward renewable energy and climate-resilient development.

### 5. Limited Public Awareness of New Legal Frameworks

Although important legislation such as the Mining and Minerals Act (2022) was enacted, public awareness and understanding of these laws remained low. This highlighted the need for sustained legal literacy and community sensitization to enable effective implementation and accountability.

### 6. Energy Access Constraints and High Electricity Costs

Limited progress in expanding off-grid clean energy solutions, combined with persistently high electricity tariffs, continued to restrict access to affordable and reliable energy for many communities.

Addressing energy access challenges remains critical to advancing an equitable and just energy transition.

## 11.2 Key Strategic Priorities for 2026

Building on the lessons and emerging risks identified in 2025, EGI will deepen its strategic focus on public finance accountability, community resilience, and policy influence to ensure that Uganda's and Africa's development pathways align with climate goals, environmental sustainability, and social justice.

### 1. Strategic Engagement with Afreximbank and Public Finance Institutions

EGI will intensify engagement with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and other public finance institutions to advocate for a shift away from fossil fuel financing toward renewable energy, decentralized energy systems, and climate-resilient infrastructure. This will include policy analysis, stakeholder dialogue, coalition advocacy, and strategic communications to promote alignment of Afreximbank's investment portfolio with Africa's just energy transition and long-term climate and economic resilience objectives.

### 2. Advancing the Mission 300 Agenda

EGI will actively contribute to continental advocacy around **Mission 300**, positioning it as a flagship framework for accelerating clean and inclusive energy access. The organization will work with civil society partners to ensure that the initiative prioritizes decentralized renewable energy, affordability, and community-centered solutions capable of connecting 300 million Africans to clean electricity by 2030.

### 3. Critical Minerals Governance for a Just Transition

EGI will expand its research and policy engagement on critical minerals, examining the financial structures, environmental risks, and governance gaps shaping emerging projects. The work will position Uganda's mineral development within global just transition debates, promote transparency and accountability, and advocate for policies that safeguard community rights, environmental standards, and national value addition.

### 4. Influencing National Critical Minerals Policy

Through strategic engagement with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and other stakeholders, EGI will support the development of a comprehensive national critical minerals policy that integrates environmental safeguards, community participation, benefit sharing, and alignment with climate and sustainable development commitments.

### 5. Strengthening Livelihoods and Green Economic Alternatives

EGI will integrate sustainable livelihood models into its ecosystem conservation and climate programs, promoting nature-based enterprises, climate-smart production systems, and green value chains that enhance community resilience while reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems.

### 6. Civil Society Coordination on Global Climate and Finance Processes

EGI will strengthen regional and global civil society collaboration to monitor and influence key international processes, including COP outcomes, climate finance negotiations, development finance reforms, and Africa Climate Summit commitments. This work will ensure that African civil society voices shape global decisions on energy transition and public finance.

### 7. Expanding Community Monitoring and Civic Space Protection

The organization will scale up community engagement and environmental monitoring in oil- and mining-affected areas, strengthening local early-warning systems, evidence generation, and advocacy while also supporting Environmental Human Rights Defenders and promoting protection of civic space.

### 8. Strategic Communications and Public Awareness

EGI will enhance its communications strategy to elevate community experiences into national and global policy debates, expand media partnerships, and strengthen digital advocacy to influence public discourse on fossil finance risks, energy transition pathways, and environmental governance.









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